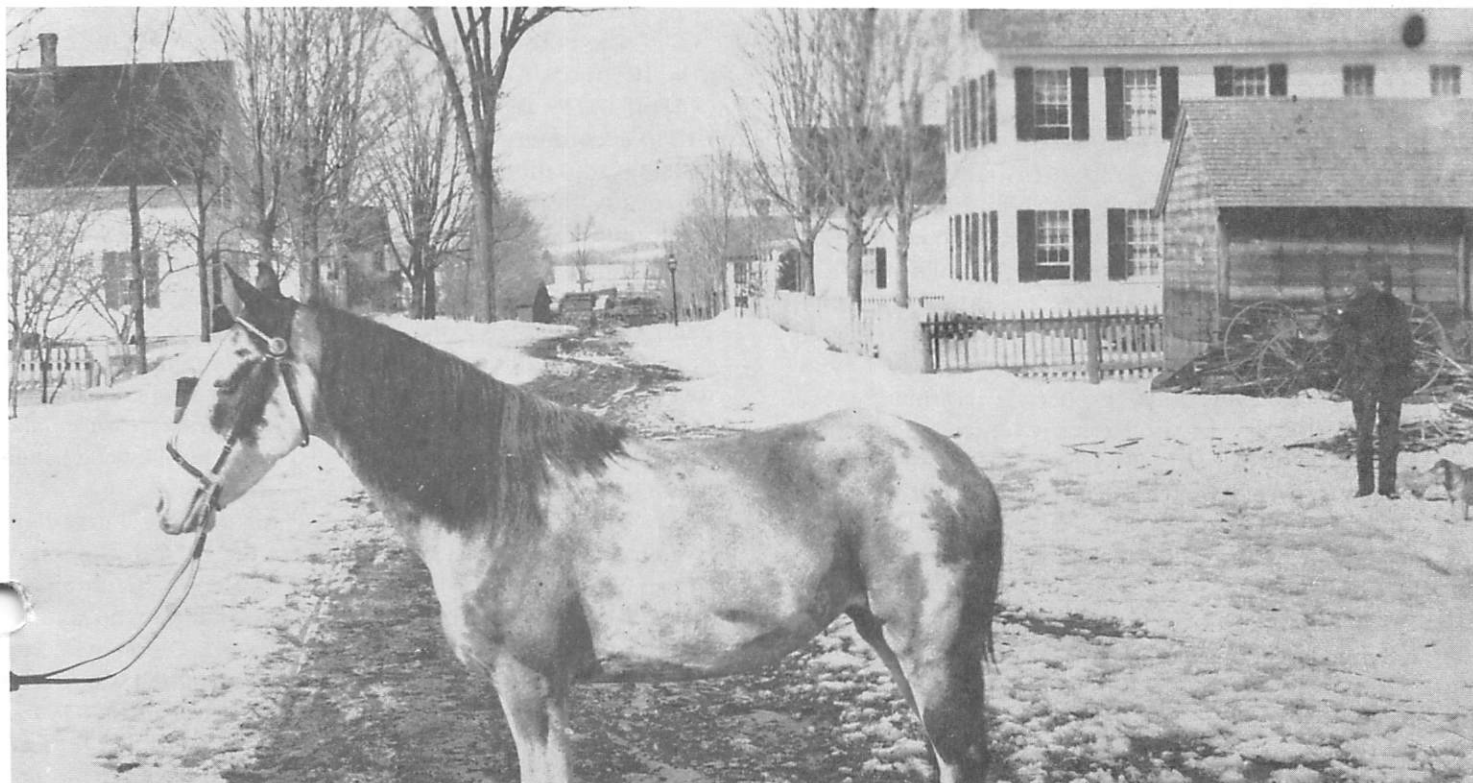


# The Bethel Courier.

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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Looking Down Mechanic Street, 1890s.*

## **HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF BETHEL'S MECHANIC STREET**

**by Barbara Herrick Brown**

*Editor's Note: An earlier version of this article was presented at the May 1986 monthly meeting of the Bethel Historical Society. The author is grateful to all those who contributed memories, photographs and/or information.*

The first mention of record for what became the present Mechanic Street is that of 1856 which referred to it as "a contemplated street." From property transfers three years later we can determine that the street was laid out and named by Robert A. Chapman (1807-1880), Bethel's leading 19th century real estate developer. It was described in those early days as being "the road leading from Buck's Steam mill to the Depot Grounds." Nine hundred and fifty feet in length and twenty two in width, the street has long been an important residential and commercial avenue.

Beginning on the left side of High Street is the filling station built in 1951 by Ruth Carver Ames (1903-1985). This site was once the sash and blind factory of Cyrus W. Buck, Moses C. Foster and Thomas Holt (1835-1889) in 1858. What happened

here between this time and 1882 is not well-known, but the OXFORD COUNTY ADVERTISER for September 22, 1882 records the fact that "Ebenezer Richardson & Son were shingling their steam mill" on this site. In April 1884, the ADVERTISER for July 1886 reported that "E. Richardson & Son are manufacturing ten thousand packing boxes for the corn shop." In 1887, the ADVERTISER recorded that "J.J. Estey, late of Boston, has anchored his photographic salon in Richardson's mill yard for a week or two and is prepared to take fine pictures." Richardson was operating the mill in January 1891 according to an item in the ADVERTISER since he had "a large amount of birch" on hand. The next person to own the site was Charles Martin who transferred it to Warren Emery in 1897. Emery sold the property to Edwin H. Smith in 1907. Smith later sold it to Chauncey Bryant (1852-1934) who owned the store at the corner of High and Main streets and lived in the Mechanic Street house next to this site. The next owner of the property was William C. Bryant (1877-1950), who inherited it from his father. William C. transferred it to his son Myron (1902-1961) on October 2, 1934. Myron sold it to Ruth C. Ames in 1951 for the site of the new filling station. Prior to this time, the lot was shaded by elms and used for the occasional traveling carnival.

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(*Mechanic Street, continued from page 1*)

The first Bethel Bazaar was held here in 1950. Originally a Shell station operated for many years by Charles "Pete" Chapin (1913-1979), it was later owned by D.W. Small of Ellsworth and offered Texaco products to its customers. Since Chapin other operators on this site have included Reginald Brown, Richard ("Sonny") Blake, and the current one, Sam Westleigh, who now sells Irving products.

(2) Annie Olson's house was long connected to the preceding property. It was built by Ebenezer Richardson in about 1880. It was later sold to Charles V. Martin who sold the premises to Warren A. Emery for \$2400 in 1897. Emery moved to the site in March 1899 according to an item in the OXFORD DEMOCRAT. In that particular transaction, the shop occupied by Henry C. Barker (1842-1924) and the hose house occupied by the Village Corporation (moved to High Street in 1893) were specifically exempted (with right to remove with thirty days notice). Emery sold the property to Edwin H. Smith in 1907; Chauncey Bryant purchased the premises from Smith in 1909. From that time, it passed along generations of Bryants (William C. to Myron) until Myron in 1951 sold it to Ruth Carver Ames. For several years it was occupied by Loton (1908-1978) and Iva Hutchinson, Alton (1896-1973) and Mary (1903-1987) Carroll, and Floyd and Stephanie (1914-1985) Thurston. Mrs. Ames sold the property to Farmington Oil Company in 1960. It was purchased by Jorgen (1897-1984) and Annie Olson on April 25, 1963. Since the Olsons acquired the property, renters have included Carol Olson York (Hathaway) and Ann Holt.

(3) The next site was once "Lizzie" Thurston's garden plot. She sold the property in 1950 to Ranald Stevens, who built the garage that now houses Kelly's Auto Parts. After operating Steve's Garage for more than twenty years here, Mr. Stevens sold the property to Paul Carter in 1972. Mr Carter leases the property to Kelly's.

(4) On the vacant lot next to Kelly's Auto Parts stood a house built in the 1870s. It was transferred from Emeline M. Jackson to her heir Edwin Coburn (1867-1943) on February 14, 1879. Later it became the property of Ebenezer Richardson, who sold it to John P. Coburn (1845-1914) in 1895. From Coburn it passed to Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Thurston on August 10, 1939. She sold the property to Ranald Stevens in 1950 who conveyed the premises to Paul Carter in 1973. Carter razed the house in

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Submissions to the COURIER continue to grow and the pile of material that will appear in future issues thickens almost daily. It is an enviable position that I find myself with an abundance of historical articles from which to choose. Deciding what will be in each issue is not always an easy choice; decisions are made with a number of factors in mind. As always I welcome new material and suggestions from our many faithful readers.

Two corrections are in order: Helen Morton has retired as the head of the Society's Program Committee; the new chairman is John Bayerlein; Margaret S. Ward of King of Prussia, PA writes that her 1986 gift to the endowment was in memory of the William Lewis Farwell family and not the Wallace Lewis Farwell family as listed in the Winter 1986 issue. SRH

the mid-1970s. When Ranald Stevens purchased the property, the rent was five dollars per week. After hot water was installed, the rent was raised to six dollars weekly. Among the tenants who lived here were Harvey Sweetser, Guy Parker, Jr., Billy Robertson, Donald and Delores Tyler, Lloyd (1927-1982) and Arlene Lowell, Kermit Sweeney, Rodney and Georgia Broo, Rodney Hanscom, Jr., Freeman Stevens, Blanche Ryerson, Merton and Bernice Luxton (she delivered the LEWISTON SUN for years), "Captain" Ed Coburn, Bill Bean, Wallace Warren (1892-1954), George Luxton, Elsie Connors, Herbert Kittredge, Curtis Hutchinson, Adeline Dexter, (1898-1987), Marion Inman, and Glenn Patterson. Lloyd Lowell had a chain saw business here in the 1950s.

(5) This house was apparently built by Robert A. Chapman in the 1850s since it appears on the 1858 *Atlas*. Jarvis C. Billings (1840-1913), the blacksmith and carriage maker, owned it by 1880 according to the *Atlas* of that year. In 1927, Robert H. Billings sold the property to Henry S. Bennett for \$6500. After his death, the property was left to his widow Frances, who lived here until 1979 when she sold the premises to Ernest and Kathy Trembly. Jarvis Billings also operated a livery stable here; Miss Brickett gave piano lessons; Henry Bennett's daughters Isabelle and Alice operated a play school for three years charging 25¢ per hour; the Billings family took roomers. Among the boarders were Ethel Bisbee, the well-known local teacher/principal, John Harrington (1896-1982), long-time town treasurer, and John Meserve. Today the property is owned by Elliot and Janice Kaufman of Colebrook, NH.

(6) The former Valentine house on this site burned on Valentine's Day in 1982. It was built in the 1850s by Robert A. Chapman, who sold the property to Hepsibah Cumming (1805-1879) on March 31, 1864. The carpenter who actually did the construction under Chapman's direction was Sam Kilbourne. For a time the house was rented until it was sold to Charles E. (1865-1955) and Bertha Grover (1867-1945) Valentine in 1905. Charles Valentine was a farmer and mail carrier. After his death the property was transferred to his only child Carroll E. Valentine (1894-1979). His widow Nell (1888-1982) and daughter Mary were living in this house at the time of the fire. Today this vacant lot is property of Mary Valentine and her brother Richard. I clearly remember Charles Valentine for his very trim appearance at all times, whether with his horse and buggy delivering the mail or singing bass in the Congregational church. His wife was a faithful Sunday School teacher for many years; they often entertained Bethel youth in their home.

(7) This house was once a barn that was moved by James ("Jim") Spinney (1890-1967) closer to the street to be very near the Valentine house. In 1894 the heirs of Cullen Chapman sold the property to Ira C. Jordan (1844-1926), the storekeeper on lower Main Street. From the Jordan family it was purchased by Alta Meserve in 1949. She sold the premises to Paul and Sally Bodwell on December 24, 1953 for \$1800. Today Sally Bodwell operates a beauty shop on this site.

Sylvia Bird, Alta Meserve's daughter, also had a beauty shop here. My father once had hens beside this barn. One year he raised a turkey, but before Thanksgiving it flew out of the hen yard and landed on the roof of the big white house next door. I don't recall whether or not we had turkey for Thanksgiving that year.

(8) The Bodwells also own the house next door which on the 1880 *Atlas* was listed as a school house. It was moved on the same lot to a different location and converted to apartments by



Ira Jordan in 1894 according to items in the OXFORD DEMOCRAT. Among the tenants here have been the Arthur Herrick family, Ralph Young (1892-1982), Dana Rand, Arthur Brink, Almon Jordan and Carl Brown (1893-1963). Marion Bodwell and Cecile Ebert live here today. The house was once owned by the Harry Jordan family; it was sold to Perley C. Andrews in 1947. In 1950, the property was sold to Harry Inman, who transferred it to Dwight and Arlene Morrill in 1953. In 1974, Arlene F. Bean sold the premises to Stephen and Sharon Frost, who in turn sold the property to the Bodwells.

(9) The next site is a mobile home currently occupied by Dennis Walley.

(10) The home of Marcia Boudreau Hunt was once much larger. Fire destroyed the large main house in the 1950s during Leonard ("Jimmy") Kimball's ownership of the property. The structure was built by Josiah French; in 1880 the premises were owned by J.A. Knapp according to the *Atlas* of that year. Other residents of the house after the Knapps include Mary Chapman, the railroad station agent Archie Verville (1916 to 1920s), the Nortons, W. Scott Wight, Shirley Chase and Trafton Bartlett. W. Scott Wight, a well-known local musician, sold the property to another well-known musician Dr. William Rogers Chapman (1855-1935) in 1914. Chapman rented the property for many years. Among those living there during the Chapman ownership was Percy Brinck. Mrs. Emma Chapman (1858-1950) inherited the premises from her husband's estate. She sold the house to Leonard (Jimmy) Kimball in 1946. He sold to Annie Cotton in 1959. The property was purchased by Leonard (Joe) Cotton in 1964 from Annie Cotton. From the Cotton family it passed to Harold and Violette Clukey in 1970. From the Clukeys the premises were transferred to Donald Parker in 1971. Parker sold to Oscar and Joyce Upham in 1975 who in turn sold to the present owners in 1976.

I recall this house as a large white one with a porch overlooking the street and another on the ell. There were four large bedrooms upstairs and Scott Wight reserved one for himself. He was a rather eccentric individual, who spent much time recruiting talent for William Rogers Chapman's concerts and choral groups. When the Verville family lived here, there was a tennis court on the property (c. 1920).

(11) The next site was long known as "The Beehive." It was built prior to 1880 as it is listed on the *Atlas* of that year as belonging to the Misses Curtis. It was sold by New England Deaconess Association for \$1200 to Agnes Hastings Straw (1837-1923) on October 4, 1903. Mrs. Straw sold the property to Roxanna Bean two weeks later. In 1922, for \$1250, Charles Bean, who had operated a nursing home here, sold the premises to W.J. Wheeler, who later conveyed the property to Newell D. Goodwin. Etta Goodwin sold the premises to Niles Kellogg (1883-1955), who built in the 1930s a grocery and grain store on the corner facing Railroad Street. This business was later (October 1955) acquired by Ernest Buck (1887-1966), who continued the store operations before selling to Robert Billings. Billings operated the grocery and grain store until the late 1960s. He purchased the "Beehive" from the Kellogg heirs and for several years rented the property before demolishing it. In its place Billings's mother Marjorie (1897-1974) moved a mobile home where she lived for several years. The Billings family moved to Bryant Pond about 1968 after closing the store; two years later the store structure was razed. In 1975, the property was purchased by Earl Hutchinson, who

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

For the last three years I have had the high privilege and distinct honor of serving in the office of president of the Bethel Historical Society. During that time it has been a pleasure to watch the growth and expansion of the organization. While Bethel and its past are still our prime interest, we have gone beyond and become a regional entity. The most recent example of this is the publication of Randy Bennett's book, *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to its Historic Architecture*.

An interesting feature of our ever increasing membership is that it draws from the complete spectrum of our population. Young people and old, farmers and bank presidents, even ex-game wardens, and people of national prominence are drawn together in a common interest.

Programming at our monthly meetings has been rich and varied. Subjects have ranged from the ancient beginnings of man's presence in the area to the recent past which some of us can remember.

The staff and our volunteers are tireless and dedicated individuals who deserve a great deal of credit for the progress of our Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them one and all. I would especially like to thank our Director, Stanley Howe; were it not for him the Society would not be what it is today.

Now as I pass on the gavel, I would like to congratulate the new officers and wish them good fortune in their endeavors. I hope that their tenure in office will be as pleasurable to them as mine has been to me.

Alden T. Kennett

## REFLECTIONS ON A HALF CENTURY (continued from Spring 1987 issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

During the 1880s and 1890s there were two attempts to build and run sawmills in the town (Grafton), but neither of them proved to be successful. A sawmill was built across the gorge on Bear River at Screw Auger Falls and was to be operated by the water power of the falls, but the first spring after its construction the flood waters of the spring thaws carried away the water wheel and left only the building on the ledge above it. The damage was repaired and I understand that the mill was operated to some extent during a thunderstorm in the summer of its second or third year of existence.

Another mill was started on the Cambridge River a short distance below the high falls, but never was completed. The man who attempted it built what he called a water engine very similar to a steam engine, but was never able to make it work; I can remember seeing the remains of the project while on fishing trips up the Cambridge River.

Earl Augustine Davis was born on April 21, 1901 at our farmhouse in Grafton and Aunt Angie Parker (Mother's sister) helped out with this event. Irving and I were at an age where we might become a nuisance at a party like this, so we were carried up to stay with the Parker boys, Arthur and Elmer; I recall that the four of us stayed at the Parker's house for three days and nights, getting our meals and amusing ourselves as best we

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owns the ranch style house on the site today. Among those who lived in the "Beehive" are the Weagle family, Charles Bean, Lewis Porter, Electa Chapin (1907-1957), Charles Freeman, Francis ("Red") Noyes, Bert Gibbs, Gerry Morgan (1882-1965), Homer Smith (1889-1975), Arthur ("Spec") Gurney and Sydney Dyke (1912-1966).

(12) Across the street stands the house recently purchased from Jacklyn Crouse Roberts by the Charles Stevens family of Gray. It was built after 1889 since the deed from Samuel Philbrook (1838-1898) for \$350 to Carrie M. Arno mentions no buildings. She owned the property for many years before selling to William R. Day on August 26, 1929. From Day, the property passed to his daughter Adeline Dexter, who sold the premises to Philip W. Daye for \$1250 on September 9, 1943. Daye sold this property to Stanley (1941-1982) and Jacklyn Roberts in 1979. After Stanley Roberts's death in 1982, his widow became sole owner until its sale in 1982. Thomas "Fitz" Vail (1884-1979) once rented this house.

(13) The land for this house was also acquired from Samuel D. Philbrook, who transferred it to his son Dana in 1904. Dana Philbrook (1871-1950) built the shingle style house the following year and carried on a watch repair business here for many years. His wife Grace (1875-1955) was a dressmaker. Upon his death in 1950, his heirs sold the property to Homer Hamlin, who subsequently sold it to Raymond and Josephine Tripp. Mrs. Tripp's son Donald Parker lives there today. The mobile home on the lot is occupied by the Raymond Tripp, Jr. family.

(14) James and Donna Lunney's house was built in the late 19th century for Samuel D. Philbrook, who owned the large Italianate house on Main Street. When Philbrook died in 1898, title to this property passed to his second wife Emily. She sold the premises to Martha Bartlett of Hanover in 1904. From her, it was acquired by Lillian and Edith Morse of Shelburne, NH in 1916. From the Morse family, the property was transferred in 1946 to Aksel and Mabel Anderson. The Anderson's son Stephen sold the property in 1978 to David K. and Betsy York following the death of his parents. The Lunnays purchased the premises from the Yorks in 1986.

(15) The next house is believed to have been built by Robert A. Chapman in the 1870s. Later it was owned by Lizzie S. Young, who sold the property to Edith Brown (1890-1971) on May 6, 1920. In 1922, Edith Brown conveyed the premises to Charles Owen Demeritt (1866-1952), who was a well-known snow-shoe maker. From Demeritt, the property was willed to his daughter Cora G. Bennett, who sold it to Homer Hamlin in 1953. The present owners, Stanley and Barbara Gallant, acquired the property in 1956 from Hamlin. Barbara Gallant operates a beauty parlor here. John Bunting, Bethel station agent, once lived here as well. This may also have been the site of Brinck's restaurant, which served meals in the 1920s. The exterior of this house has changed little through the years.

(16) This house was believed (from the evidence of the 1880 *Atlas*) to have been built by Robert A. Chapman prior to 1880. It was later owned by Austin Wheeler, who sold the premises to William Kendall in 1897. Kendall transferred the property to Elizabeth Thurston in 1912. Carl Pike spent some of his early years with "Lizzie" Thurston. W.B. Raymond, M.D. fitted glasses and treated eyes here in 1919. Following Mrs. Thurston's death, the property passed to her heirs (daughter Bertha Charick and

grandson Jared West) from whom it was sold in 1972 to Ferroll and Marie Witter. The Witters sold the premises to Mary Leimbach. "Lizzie" Thurston once operated a rooming house here. Among her tenants were Alton Carroll and Ida Packard (1893-1971). Other renters in recent years have included the Bartholomew family.

(17) This next site is now vacant but was long the location of Connor's Garage. Both this building and the adjacent blacksmith shop are found on the 1880 *Atlas*. The blacksmith shop was purchased from Ebenezer Richardson (1786-1871) in 1868 by Jarvis C. Billings (1840-1913) of North Woodstock. He apparently expanded the operations to build carriages and sleighs. Later he was succeeded by L.D. Kilgore in the carriage and sleigh manufacturing business. It was this structure that became the garage operated in 1919 by Arthur Herrick (1890-1966) and later by Bert Gibbs, Asa Sessions (1874-1954), Parker Connors (1904-1954) and finally by Harold Connors (1927-1980), who died when the building burned in 1980. There was an earlier fire here during the ownership of Jarvis Billings. Myron Bryant turned in the alarm and it is said to have been the first time the lower Main Street signals were used. Other operators of the blacksmith shop were Fred Holt, Charles Cross and "Jim" Spinney. There was a paint shop in the upstairs of the carriage and sleigh shop. An item in the (Norway) OXFORD ADVERTISER, May 19, 1893 described one customer: "Milton Penley supplies his customers with meat this week from his new artistic cart, neatly and freshly ornamented from the factory of J.C. Billings."

(18) Between the blacksmith shop and renovated garage once owned by Eli Stearns was a hen yard according to the late Albert Skillings (1896-1986). The property was once owned by Rev. Benjamin Foster, who died in 1891. It was purchased for \$1800 following Foster's death by Stearns, a cattle dealer, who came to Bethel from Newry. After his widow's death in 1938, the property passed to Harvey Bragdon. It was he who converted the building to apartments. When he died in 1956, he willed the property to Frank B. Johnson, who sold to Katherine Pulsifer. She sold the premises to Doris and Myron Bryant in 1958. Ola Olson purchased the building from the Bryants in the fall of 1958. Today the property is owned by Tony Chapman. Tenants have included Muriel Butters, Dr. H. John Young, and Mrs. Earl Cummings. Albert Skillings once told me about a horse who once mistook a window for a door here and raised havoc with the hens beside the building by jumping half-way through the window and being neither in nor out.

(19) The Soldier's Monument was erected in 1908 to be forever known as Monument Square according to a newspaper account of the era. It replaced a band stand that once stood on this site.

Mechanic Street remains today much as it was in the 1850s, a combination of commercial and residential structures. It has been home to a wide variety of people (even a few mechanics); it has been the site of numerous commercial ventures from beauty salons to a carriage and sleigh manufacturer. Fires have taken their toll of Mechanic Street buildings; others have been deliberately demolished. Through all these years, however, the street has never stopped being an important part of life on Bethel Hill.

It was a good place for me to spend my childhood in the 1920s. There were big maple and elm trees, pleasant well-kept homes, friendly neighbors and plenty of neighborhood children to play with. A little brook ran through the field in the back



of the house and someone was always getting wet when we sailed boats in the spring. It was an easy walk to the church and my father's garage. I thoroughly enjoyed my years as a resident of Mechanic Street.

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*Bethel Fire Department on lower Mechanic Street, 1890s.*

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Joy Yarnell, Newry

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### BOOK REVIEW

THE GRAND TRUNK IN NEW ENGLAND. By Jeff Holt. (Toronto: Railfare Enterprises Limited, 1986. Pp. 176. Cloth. \$29.95)

Conceived in the mind of the enterprising Maine lawyer, John Alfred Poor, a native of Andover, Maine, and supported by a number of leading Canadian and American political and business leaders, the Portland-Montreal line of the Canadian National Railways had its beginning in Portland in February 1845. Completed after a seven year struggle with the problems of money, geography and climate, this international line passed through the forbidding wilderness of Quebec and northern New England, providing an Atlantic outlet for Canadian grain products destined from Montreal to Europe which might have otherwise been diverted via the Erie Canal to New York City for export abroad. Indeed, the construction of the Portland-Montreal railway, known as the Atlantic and St. Lawrence in the United States (in Canada the names were reversed), may have saved both Montreal and Portland from commercial decline in the late 19th century. The railway assured the city and port of Montreal of retaining its position as the depot of Western trade bound for Europe and the Maine port was expanded and developed to meet the challenge of heavy Canadian export trade.

Although the possibility of failure of the line was a continual concern to the railroad's backers, their efforts were rewarded in 1853 with its opening. It brought a new era of prosperity to Portland and Montreal, and also stimulated the lumber industry in New England. A vigorous trade with the West Indies, by which lumber products were shipped out and sugar and molasses received, centered in Portland, and trans-Atlantic steamship lines developed a flourishing business moving grain, lumber, food products and manufactured goods.

The arrival of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence at Bethel in March 1851 was a major event in the town's history, making it possible to ship goods from the town and for summer visitors to come from other parts of country. Mills began to develop along the railroad tracks and a bustling summer tourist industry was apparent by the 1860s. There are several references to Bethel as well as the western Maine area in this book.

Author Jeff Holt, a native of Portland and a graduate of the University of Southern Maine, now lives in Montreal. During my years with the Grand Trunk, he visited me on several occasions and "picked my brain" for information that eventually found its way into this book. It is a well-documented study, based on a

(continued on page 8)

(Book Review, continued from page 7)

large number of sources with over 200 photographs, twenty in full color, plus over 30 posters, timetables, graphs and other illustrations, each with detailed captions. Photos of construction gangs, passenger stations, early wood burning locomotives and railroad personnel highlight the volume and add to its interest for the rail enthusiast. This is a fine book and I am pleased to recommend it.

E.M. Quinn

**E.M. Quinn**, Society president (1972-73), is a former Grand Trunk conductor.

## SOCIETY HONORS DR. MASON'S 198th BIRTHDAY

The 198th birthday of Dr. Moses Mason was observed at his home on Broad Street. Portraying the Doctor and his wife as usual were Ernest and Betty Perkins. Once again the birthday cake was made by Diane S. Howe. Serving punch was Floribel Haines. Hostesses for the afternoon were Judy Haskell and Margaret Davis. Craft demonstrators were Mabel Kennett, quilting; Helen Morton, sketching on scratchboard; E.D. Hastings, needlepoint; Agnes Haines, basketmaking. During the afternoon, Society Director Stanley R. Howe spoke on the topic "Lost Bethel", which focused on buildings and other structures lost through the years to fire, neglect and deliberate destruction.

## DELWIN WILSON WINS 1987 DR. MOSES MASON AWARD

Delwin Wilson of Bryant Pond, a Telstar Regional High School junior, received the 1987 Dr. Moses Mason Award for his essay on the history of the I.W. Andrews and Sons Company of South Woodstock. The award, given annually by the Society to the Gould Academy or Telstar student who writes the best essay on a local history subject, consists of a certificate and a \$100 savings bond. Judges this year for the award were Edmond J. Vachon, Margaret Joy Tibbetts and Rosalind R. Chapman.

## IN MEMORIAM

Died in Belfast, June 17, 1987, W. Sidney Howe, life member since 1985.

Died in West Peru, July 18, 1987, Lester L. Bennett, sustaining member, generous donor and father of Society Curator of Collections Randall Bennett.

Died in Norway, August 10, 1987, Edward H. (Ned) Hastings, life member, generous donor and trustee.

Died in West Paris, August 26, 1987, Doris Ordway Lord, generous donor and sustaining member since 1966.

Died in Norway, August 27, 1987, Ethel W. MacKenzie, sustaining member since 1979 and generous donor.

Died in Rumford, August 31, 1987, Adeline Dexter, sustaining member since 1981.

## 1987 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Life member Howard W. Cole has again agreed to head the Society's annual endowment campaign. He will be assisted in this endeavor by Barbara D. Brown, John B. Head, Alden T. Kennett and E. Louise Lincoln. The goal this year is \$7500 to be achieved by December 31, 1987. Contributions are welcomed in any amount and may be given in honor of or in memory of a particular person or persons. Please send donations to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

## SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50

Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 each

Moses Mason House

Summer House

Bethel Railroad Station

Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢

"The Family Farm" 75¢

"Made in Bethel" 75¢

"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1

"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50

Wood Tote (canvas) (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$12.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$7.50

Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Special Editions

Bethel Citizen (1974) \$1

Indian Raid '81 \$1

Books

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95

B.G. Willey, INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY \$25

Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$24.95

D. B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4

Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50

Ruth Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK \$3.50

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOK \$5

Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND Paper \$19.95. Cloth \$29.95

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF NORWAY, MAINE \$55

M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$35

Jan Lipman, RUFUS PORTER REDISCOVERED \$12.95

A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS \$25

Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5

Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50

R. H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45

F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ e

Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1988 \$6

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.





*Edward H. (Ned) Hastings at the Society's December 1986 meeting which happened to be his 63rd birthday. Mr. Hastings was honored on that occasion for his many contributions to the Society and received a special cake in the form of a piano made by Leona Flint.*

### MEMBER PROFILE

#### Edward H. (Ned) Hastings

#### 1923-1987

Edward H. (Ned) Hastings was born in Dorchester, MA in 1923 and educated in the Boston public schools. A graduate of Wesleyan and Harvard universities, he was a teacher at the Erskine School in Boston, at Clark University and at Curry College before his retirement in 1986 as Dean of the College at Curry, which also awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. In addition to his work as a teacher of English literature he was a church music director for 45 years. His publications included ten church anthems and four organ compositions. In the summer of 1986, he retired to reside in the Broad Street house built in the 1820s by his great grandfather John Hastings.

He was long active in the Society, serving as pianist at monthly meetings, as the master of ceremonies at Sudbury Canada Days variety shows and in a number of other roles including Indian Raid '81. During the summer months for years he proofread copy for the COURIER and other Society publications. He was a generous donor of artifacts to the Society through the years and a contributor to the endowment. A life member, he served on the Board of Trustees from 1986 until his death on August 10, 1987.

### 8TH ANNUAL FAYE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ART SHOW HELD MAY 30

The eighth annual Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show was held on May 30 at the Dr. Moses Mason House. Several hundred entries from SAD #44 elementary (Grades 1-6) schools were received. Winners were (Grades 1 & 2), First Prize: Jerry Bernier, Ethel Bisbee School; second prize, Amy Lynn Hale, Ethel Bisbee School; third prize, Brett Harvey, Ethel Bisbee School; (Grades 3 & 4), first prize, Anneliese Bass, Crescent Park School; second prize, Sadie Gallant, Andover Elementary School; third prize, Tim Remington, Crescent Park School; (Grades 5 & 6), first prize, Phoebe Hausman-Rogers, Crescent Park School; second prize, David Jacques, Andover Elementary School; third prize, Hollie Salway, Andover Elementary School. Cash prizes and ribbons were awarded in each category. Judges this year were James B. Owen, Arla Patch and Suzanne Taylor. The show is supported in part by a donation from the Bethel Savings Bank and honors a founding member of the Society who was particularly interested in art for young people. Much appreciation is expressed to all those who made the show possible and to Art Committee members Katherine Bennett, Helen Morton and Sue Wight for all their efforts.

### SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Alden T. Kennett, President; Marvin Ouwinga, Vice-President; Charles F. Raymond, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Mary C. Keniston, Treasurer; Trustees, Donald G. Bennett, Donald S. Brown, Lynda H. Chandler, Edward H. Hastings, Margaret Joy Tibbetts.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.  
Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum            | (5) quarterly publication                    |
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| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

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(L. E. Davis Memoirs, continued from page 3)

could. Arthur was either twelve or thirteen years old and took charge of most of the cooking that was done. The rest of us were younger; Irving and Elmer were ten and eleven years old and I was eight. Arthur made some biscuits one day, which were probably not just like Mother's, but we ate them and lived.

I recall one other thing about this episode that seems singular. The fields and roads were covered with deep snow at this time, which in view of our present seasons, seems very late, but it rained most of the three days that we were there, so probably the snow soon went after that.

The year after Earl was born we moved to Hanover, Maine.

I believe that Father was getting along quite comfortably in Grafton, but Mother had rather bad attacks of asthma about every time we had a damp wind. That situation together with the fact that they believed their children would have a better opportunity for schooling somewhere else started Father "farm hunting" in the late winter of 1902.

In April 1902, he purchased what was known as the Edgar Powers farm in the town of Hanover about two miles northwest of Hanover Village; we moved there on the river road in May of that year.

I recall that day of moving (May 6) as everything had to be moved by horse drawn wagon or driven by foot. Practically all of our furniture and personal belongings were loaded on to the hayrack which was hauled by the farm horses. Mother rode in the riding wagon which was hitched to the back end of the hayrack and she carried Earl, who was a year old, in her arms and Gladys rode on the seat beside her.

The chickens were placed in a crate in the back end of the riding wagon, but Irving and I had plenty to do driving the cattle and sheep ahead of the wagons. We got Alton Brooks, a neighbor boy, to help us and we made the move of about twenty miles one day.

In order to sell the place where we lived in Grafton, Father had to make some arrangement to take care of Mrs. Dow as I believe he had contracted to provide her a home for her lifetime. I believe he told me one time that for \$350 cash, which he borrowed, that he was able to make a deal with a Grover family in Bethel to have her taken off his hands. He sold the farm in Grafton to George Muse for \$750.

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Moving into a new neighborhood was a thrilling experience at my age (nine); I remember particularly the event of going to school with children who were strangers to me. I recall this in particular. At Grafton there were eight or nine boys and only two girls, my sister Gladys and Florence Parker, but at Hanover the proportion was somewhat reversed; about seven or eight girls and five or six boys, but we managed to get used to that without too much difficulty. The move to Hanover proved to be a very happy choice and showed good judgement on the part of my father.

Mother was free of her trouble with asthma, which was a big item, and the farm there was easier to obtain a living from; in a warmer climate almost any northern crop could be ripened.

The farm had a small orchard, which had been badly neglected, but with not too much care produced all the apples we needed and some to sell.

(To be continued in the next issue)

#### **NEW CORPORATE MEMBER**

Shearwater Design, Bethel

#### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Garrett D. and Melody D. Bonnema, Bethel, operate Bonnema's Pottery on Main Street.

Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA, is retired. She is the widow of Philip S. Chapman, Gould Academy class of 1936.

Erland and Margaret Wentzell, West Baldwin. He is a graduate of Gould Academy, class of 1937.

Bruce and Gayle Connor, Chelmsford, MA, have acquired the former "Poplar Tavern" in Newry.

Walter and Carolyn Hatch, Bethel, are retired and building a new home on the Bailey Road.

Tamara Mills Billings, Bryant Pond, is the granddaughter of Society incorporator Norman O. Mills.

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